An Archaeological Watching Brief at Abbey Green Park, Barking London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Site Code: ABG07

Central National Grid Reference: TQ 4405 8390

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1 ABSTRACT

1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief conducted on a geotechnical site investigation at Abbey Green Park, Barking, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TQ 4405 8390.

1.2 The watching brief found evidence for a natural brickearth horizon sealing an earlier natural sand layer. Whilst the upper level of the natural horizon showed marked differences across the site it is unknown as to whether these differences represent undulations in the natural topography or the presence of archaeological features.

1.3 “Dump” deposits were encountered across the site although their date of deposition remains unknown.

1.4 The presence of masonry elements in a number of the boreholes suggests the remains of post-medieval buildings remain in situ below Abbey Park.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Abbey Green Park, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham between 14th and 18th May 2007. The Watching Brief monitored the removal of 30 window samples taken to investigate ground conditions and the potential for contaminants within the soil, in advance of landscaping works in the park (see main report for locations).

2.2 The commissioning client was the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and the watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. The watching brief was undertaken by Guy Seddon and the author and project managed by Peter Moore.

2.3 The site lies on an island of land bound by London Road to the north, North Street and Broadway to the east, St Paul's Road to the south and Abbey Road to the west. It consists of two areas of grassland to the north and south of the site, with the remains of Barking Abbey, St Margaret's Churchyard, and a Church of England primary school located in the central area and St Joseph's School at the southern end.

2.4 The completed archive comprising written and drawn records will be deposited at the Museum of London under the site code ABG07.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

3.1.1 Barking Abbey and its surrounding parkland are defined as Scheduled Ancient Monument 107. As a consequence under the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended) – Section 2 consent is required prior to the commencement of any intrusive groundworks within the scheduled boundary.

3.1.2 Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent was sought by Hyder Consulting in January 2007 in advance of a borehole survey around the site of Barking Abbey. Consent for the groundworks was granted in April 2007 (Ref: 0075-GD00928-GDL-AO) and stated that:

> "Archaeological analysis of the borehole samples, to embrace analysis of the strata, and of any archaeologically significant finds and deposits encountered, should be undertaken by an archaeological contractor affiliated to the institute of Field Archaeologists; a method statement for this should be submitted to English Heritage prior to the commencement of works on site."

3.1.3 For a full background to the planning application and Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent Application see Moore 2007.

3.2 PPG16

3.2.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning" providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.

3.2.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority is bound by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Structure and Local Plan policy and by other material.

3.2.3 The condition for this application is:

> *No development or site preparation prior to operations which has any effect on disturbing or altering the level of composition of the land, shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in*

accordance with a written scheme of investigations to be submitted by applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

3.2.4 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Unitary Development Plan (UDP) adopted in October 1995. The plan contains the following policy, which provides a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features.

POLICY DE36

When any development is proposed on sites of archaeological significance or for any sites identified by English Heritage the council will seek to ensure that an early evaluation is carried out, and that the preservation *in situ* is given fist consideration. However, if preservation *in situ* is not possible and the nature of the remains does not warrant a planning refusal, the council will require that adequate time, funding and resources are provided to enable archaeological investigation by an acceptable agent to take place during the process of development.

POLICY DE37

The council will seek to ensure that the most important archaeological remains and their setting are preserved *in situ* (if possible for public access and display) and that where appropriate they are given statutory protection.

POLICY DE38

The council will promote cooperation between landowners, developers and archaeological organisations in accordance with the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice and the Confederation of British Industry Code of Practice on archaeological investigations.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 The site lies on flood plain gravel, which forms a terrace of higher ground overlooking the River Thames, and the River Roding. The gravel terrace is cut by the River Roding, which forms a shallow alluvial filled valley draining south into the Thames at Barking Reach. The geological survey indicates that the terrace gravel is capped by naturally deposited brickearth.

4.2 Whilst the distribution of the natural brickearth horizon across Barking is largely unknown it has, for example, been recorded during excavations to the east of Barking Abbey at heights ranging between 6.91m OD to 6.70m OD.

4.3 This section of the Roding Valley is considered important as the gravel outcrops are close to the main river channel, providing firm ground and thus a possible landing site, upstream from the River Thames.

4.4 The site is currently in use as grassed parkland.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The site represents the medieval core of St Mary's Abbey, Barking, and the remains of the abbey church and cloistral buildings remain visible today. St Margaret's Church, immediately to the south of the abbey is also medieval in date.

5.2 Several archaeological excavations have taken place within the scheduled area and in the immediate vicinity. While the focus of the Medieval abbey and church has been shown to lie in the centre and northern parts of the scheduled area, excavations have also shown that the Saxon abbey extends into the western parts of the site. The excavations have also demonstrated the presence of prehistoric activity on site.

5.3 The medieval townscape developed in two principal areas with the first focused to the east of the church around the market place and Town Hall and the second along Heath Street, which led down to the mill and harbour. The medieval to post-medieval house plots survived until the 20th century, whereon they were demolished and large industrial units were constructed. During the late 20th century the site was redeveloped as parkland and schools.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 The watching brief monitored the removal of 30 window samples in parkland surrounding Barking Abbey, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The window samples were required to assess levels of ground contamination in those areas of parkland currently in public use.

6.2 All of the window samples were obtained by boring through the current ground surface, with the exception of Window Sample 23, which was excavated by hand to a depth of 1.20m and then bored. The window samples measured no more then 0.10m in width and were extracted to a maximum depth of c.3m.

6.3 The cores extracted from the ground were cleaned and the results obtained were recorded on pro-forma borehole record sheets detailing the main characteristics of each deposit.

6.4 The window samples were located by GPS and the locality was scanned for both services and bombs by the contractor prior to the commencement of the groundworks. An archaeologist was in attendance throughout the removal of all below ground deposits.

6.5 The site was given the code ABG07.

7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

7.1 Window Sample 1

7.1.1 Window Sample 1 was bored to a depth of 4.43m OD whereon a masonry obstruction was encountered and the window sample was abandoned.

7.1.2 Sealing the masonry obstruction was a 0.24m thick, crushed brick hardcore deposit, sealed in turn by a 0.28m thick, loosely compacted, mid brown sandy silt deposit containing fragments of ceramic building material (CBM).

7.1.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.11m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.06m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.2 Window Sample 2

7.2.1 Window Sample 2 was bored to a depth of 2.95m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 4.40m OD.

7.2.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.35m thick, friable, mid brown, sandy silt deposit that contained occasional fragments of CBM and gravel. Lain above was a 0.16m thick, friable, mid brown sandy silt deposit containing frequent chalk flecks. This in turn was sealed by a 0.91m thick, friable, mid brown, sandy silt deposit containing fragments of CBM, concrete and animal bone.

7.2.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.26m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.18m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.3 Window Sample 3

7.3.1 Window Sample 3 was bored to a depth of 2.95m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 5.62m OD.

7.3.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.59m thick, firm, light greyish brown, sandy clayey silt deposit that contained occasional quantities of slag material and gravel. A 0.14m

thick, firm, light greyish brown, sandy silt deposit containing fragments of CBM, cinder and gravel sealed the early layer.

7.3.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.67m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.4 Window Sample 4

7.4.1 Window Sample 4 was bored to a depth of 2.14m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 6.92m below the current ground surface. Sealing this horizon was a layer of naturally deposited gravely sand measuring 0.29m in thickness. The horizon was sealed by a 0.09m thick, firm, light yellowish brown, sandy clay deposit which contained occasional quantities of sub-rounded gravel and represents a naturally deposited brickearth horizon.

7.4.2 The upper natural horizon was sealed by a 0.80m thick, loose, mid brown, sandy silt deposit containing fragments of CBM, chalk and gravel.

7.4.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 8.20m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.5 Window Sample 5

7.5.1 Window Sample 5 was bored to a depth of 2.64m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 4.58m OD.

7.5.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.77m thick, loose, dark brown, sandy silt deposit containing fragments of animal bone, cinder, glass and gravel. A 0.05m thick, firm, light yellowish brown, sandy silt deposit sealed the earlier horizon.

7.5.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.05m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.45m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.6 Window Sample 6

7.6.1 Window Sample 6 was bored to a depth of 2.07m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 5.25 m OD.

7.6.2 A 0.45m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, sandy silt deposit containing fragments of chalk and CBM sealed the natural horizon. A 1.05m thick, firm, dark grey brown, sandy silt deposit containing CBM fragments and flint nodules sealed the earlier deposit.

7.6.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.24m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.99m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.7 Window Sample 7

7.7.1 Whilst Window Sample 7 was bored to a depth of 2.49m below the current ground surface natural deposits were not encountered.

7.7.2 The earliest deposit seen within the window sample was a firm, sandy silt deposit containing CBM fragments and gravel encountered at 2.01m below the current ground surface. This was sealed by a 0.31m thick, firm, dark grey brown, sandy silt deposit containing CBM and chalk fragments and a 0.18m thick, firm, light yellow brown, clay deposit. A number of deposits were seen above this horizon which can be stratigraphically summarised as follows: 0.33m thick, firm, mid grey brown, silty sand deposit; 0.22m thick deposit of CBM fragments; 0.25m thick, firm, dark black, grey clay deposit; 0.28m thick, friable, mid brown, sandy silt deposit; 0.30m thick, firm, mid yellow brown silty sand deposit.

7.7.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.13m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.24m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.8 Window Sample 8

7.8.1 Window Sample 8 was bored to a depth of 1.84m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 4.94m OD.

7.8.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.46m thick, friable, mid brown, sandy silt deposit containing frequent quantities of gravel. The horizon was sealed by a 0.12m thick layer of concrete and a 0.24m thick, loose, light brown, silt clay deposit.

7.8.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.11m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.84m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.9 Window Sample 9

7.9.1 Window Sample 9 was bored to a depth of 2.98m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 4.76m OD.

7.9.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.99m thick, friable, dark brown, clayey sandy silt deposit containing gravel, CBM and charcoal. The deposit was sealed by a 0.19m thick, firm, light yellow brown, sandy clay, a 0.42m thick firm, dark brown, sandy silt deposit containing burnt flint, CBM and gravel and a 0.07m thick, loose, light yellow brown, silty sand deposit.

7.9.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.11m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.54m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.10 Window Sample 10

7.10.1 Window Sample 10 was bored to a depth of 2.37m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 5.28m OD.

7.10.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 1.02m thick, firm, mid yellow grey, sandy silt deposit that contained moderate quantities of gravel. The deposit was sealed by a 0.33m thick, loose, dark yellow brown, silt sand and a 0.15m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, gravely sandy silt.

7.10.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.14m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.95m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.11 Window Sample 11

7.11.1 Window Sample 11 was bored to a depth of 1.73m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 4.89m OD and a naturally deposited brickearth horizon at 5.02m OD.

7.11.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.41m thick, firm, mid brown, silty sand deposit containing gravel, slag material and CBM and a 0.36m thick, loose, light brown grey, silty sand deposit containing gravel and concrete fragments.

7.11.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.99m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.12 Window Sample 12

7.12.1 Window Sample 12 was bored to a depth of 1.27m below the current ground surface whereon a concrete obstruction was encountered and the window sample was abandoned.

7.12.2 Sealing the concrete horizon was a 0.63m thick, loose, dark brown, silty sand deposit containing CBM fragments and a 0.29m thick, loose, mid yellow brown, sandy gravel deposit.

7.12.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.15m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.73m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.13 Window Sample 13

7.13.1 Window Sample 13 was bored to a depth of 2.57m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 5.23m OD.

7.13.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.86m thick, loose, mid grey brown, sand silt deposit containing gravel and CBM. This was in turn sealed by a 0.42m thick, loose, dark black, silt sand deposit containing coal, CBM and gravel and a 0.42m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, sand silt deposit containing CBM fragments.

7.13.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.05m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.14 Window Sample 14

7.14.1 Window Sample 14 was bored to a depth of 2.50m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 3.60m OD.

7.14.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.65m thick, firm, dark brown, sandy silt deposit containing concrete and CBM fragments, a 0.13m thick deposit of crushed concrete, a 0.15m thick, loose, mid brown, silty sand deposit containing CBM fragments and a 0.36m thick, loose, light greyish brown, silty sand deposit.

7.14.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.11m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.46m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.15 Window Sample 15

7.15.1 Window Sample 15 was bored to a depth of 1.90m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 4.64m OD.

7.15.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.19m thick, dark brown, sandy silt deposit containing cinder fragments and a 1.25m thick, firm, mid brown, sandy silt deposit containing fragments of plastic sheeting and CBM.

7.15.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.14m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.22m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.16 Window Sample 16

7.16.1 Window Sample 16 was bored to a depth of 1.70m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 5.70m OD.

7.16.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a number of deposits which are stratigraphically summarised as follows: 0.14m thick, firm, mid grey yellow, sandy silt; 0.12m thick,

firm, mid grey yellow, sandy silt deposit containing CBM and charcoal flecks; 0.11m thick, loose, dark black brown, ashy sand deposit; 0.15m thick CBM deposit; 0.07m thick, loose, mid yellow, sand; 0.12m thick, loose, mid grey brown, silt sand deposit containing gravel and CBM; 0.10m thick, firm, mid yellow, sandy silt deposit; 0.10m thick, loose, mid blackish yellow, ashy gravel deposit; 0.09m thick, loose, mid yellow brown, sandy gravel deposit.

7.16.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.80m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.17 Window Sample 17

7.17.1 Window Sample 17 was bored to a depth of 1.87m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 6.28m OD.

7.17.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.28m thick, firm, mid grey brown, sandy silt deposit which in turn was sealed by a 0.43m thick, firm, mid grey brown, silty sand deposit containing CBM fragments and gravel. A 0.37m thick, firm, light yellow brown, gravely silt deposit sealed the sealed the earlier horizon.

7.17.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.11m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.47m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.18 Window Sample 18

7.18.1 Window Sample 18 was bored to a depth of 3.22m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 2.75m OD. Sealing the natural sand horizon was a 0.34m thick naturally deposited brickearth layer.

7.18.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.70m thick firm, dark brown, sandy silt deposit containing occasional CBM and gravel. This was overlain by a 0.16m thick crushed concrete layer which was in turn sealed by a 0.18m thick, mid brown, sandy silt deposit, a 0.14m thick, loose, light greyish brown, silty sand deposit and a 0.08m thick, crushed SBM deposit.

7.18.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.57m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.19 Window Sample 19

7.19.1 Window Sample 19 was bored to a depth of 1.86m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 5.19m OD.

7.19.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.39m thick, dark grey, sandy silt deposit that contained gravel and CBM inclusions. The earlier horizon was overlain by a 0.34m thick, firm, dark blackish brown, sand silt deposit, a 0.15m thick, loose, crushed CBM and gravel deposit and a 0.18m thick, mid yellow brown, sandy silt deposit.

7.19.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.35m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.20 Window Sample 20

7.20.1 Window Sample 20 was bored to a depth of 2.60m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 4.65m OD.

7.20.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 1.19m thick, loose, mid brown yellow, gravely sand deposit containing fragments of CBM, charcoal, oyster shell and animal bone. The deposit was sealed by a 0.33m thick, loose, mid yellow grey brown, sandy gravel deposit containing occasional CBM fragments. A 0.62m thick, loose, mid blackish yellow brown, ashy gravely sand deposit sealed the earlier horizon and was in turn sealed by a 0.19m thick firm, mid yellow brown, silty sand deposit containing CBM fragments and gravel

7.20.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.10m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.21 Window Sample 21

7.21.1 Window Sample 21 was bored to a depth of 2.25m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 3.18m OD.

7.21.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.43m thick, firm, mid brown, clay silt deposit that contained occasional fragments of charcoal. The deposit was sealed by a 0.71m thick, firm, dark brown, sandy silt deposit containing slag material, a 0.33m thick, firm, dark brown, sandy silt containing CBM fragments and gravel and a 0.18m thick, friable, light grey brown, silt sand deposit containing CBM fragments and gravel.

7.21.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.09m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 4.92m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.22 Window Sample 22

7.22.1 Window Sample 1 was bored to a depth of 1.00m below the current ground surface whereon an obstruction was encountered and the window sample was abandoned.

7.22.2 Sealing the obstruction was a 0.23m thick deposit of crushed CBM hardcore, over which was lain a 0.42m thick, firm, dark brown, sandy silt deposit which contained CBM fragments, cinder and gravel. The deposit was sealed by a 0.25m thick, loose, light grey brown, silty sand.

7.22.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.86m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.23 Window Sample 23

7.23.1 Window sample 23 was excavated by hand to a depth of 1.20m and thereafter was bored to a depth of 1.73m below the current ground surface. The natural sand horizon was encountered at 4.06m OD.

7.23.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.90m thick, firm, dark yellow brown, clayey silt deposit that contained occasional quantities of gravel. The deposit was sealed by a 0.07m thick, soft, mid white grey clay silt deposit, which was in turn sealed by a 0.37m thick, firm, mid yellow green brown, sandy silt deposit containing CBM fragments, gravel and oyster shell.

7.23.3 The remainder of the window sample was removed by hand and as a consequence it was not possible to record the deposits removed in section. It was, however, apparent that a crushed CBM deposit existed at c.0.80m below the current ground level, encountered at 6.59m OD, and was overlain by mixed made ground deposits and topsoil as witnessed in the other windows undertaken on site.

7.24 Window Sample 24

7.24.1 Window Sample 24 was bored to a depth of 1.71m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 6.27m OD.

7.24.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.51m thick, firm, mid grey brown, sandy silt deposit that contained CBM flecks and gravel. The horizon was sealed by a 0.17m thick, friable, dark yellow brown, silty sand deposit containing CBM fragments and gravel, a 0.16m thick crushed CBM deposit and a 0.27m thick, friable, light yellow brown silty sand deposit.

7.24.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.50m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.25 Window Sample 25

7.25.1 Window Sample 25 was bored to a depth of 2.21m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 2.92m OD.

7.25.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.36m thick, firm, dark brown, sandy clay deposit containing CBM fragments, charcoal and gravel. The horizon was overlain by a number of deposits which are stratigraphically summarised as follows: 0.47m thick, firm, dark brown, sandy clay deposit containing occasional CBM fragments and charcoal; 0.10m thick, firm, dark brown, sandy silt deposit containing occasional CBM fragments; 0.47m thick crushed CBM and mortar deposit; 0.22m thick, firm, dark brown, sandy silt containing occasional CBM fragments and cinder; 0.14m thick, loose, mid grey brown, silty sand; 0.12m thick, loose, light grey brown, silty sand deposit containing CBM fragments.

7.25.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.09m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 4.89m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.26 Window Sample 26

7.26.1 Window Sample 26 was bored to a depth of 1.80m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 4.17m OD.

7.26.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.31m thick, firm, dark brown black, silty sand deposit that contained fragments of CBM and clay pipe. The deposit was sealed by a 0.24m thick, loose, light yellow brown, sandy gravel deposit, a 0.44m thick, loose, dark black brown, silty sand deposit containing gravel and CBM fragments and a 0.22m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, silt deposit which contained fragments of CBM.

7.26.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.50m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.27 Window Sample 27

7.27.1 Window Sample 27 was bored to a depth of 1.80m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 4.72m OD.

7.27.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.83m thick, loose, mid yellow brown sandy gravel. Sealing this horizon was a 0.32m thick, friable, mid brown, silty sand deposit that contained CBM fragments and cinder which was in turn sealed by a 0.23m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, silt deposit.

7.27.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.12m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 6.22m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.28 Window Sample 28

7.28.1 Window Sample 28 was bored to a depth of 2.65m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 5.54m OD.

7.28.2 Sealing the natural horizon was a 0.48m thick, friable, mid yellow brown, silty sand deposit that contained fragments of CBM and glass. The horizon was overlain by a 0.36m thick, firm, dark yellow brown, sandy silt deposit containing cinder and CBM fragments which was in turn sealed by a 0.36m thick crushed concrete deposit, sealed by a 0.26m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, sandy silt deposit.

7.28.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 7.12m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.29 Window Sample 29

7.29.1 Window Sample 29 was bored to a depth of 2.69m and encountered a naturally deposited sand horizon at 4.41m OD.

7.29.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.28m thick, loose, mid yellow brown, sandy silty gravel layer which was in turn sealed by a 0.69m thick, firm, dark yellow brown silty sand deposit which contained fragments of CBM, sandstone, gravel and slag residue. The horizon was sealed by a 0.07m thick deposit of crushed CBM over which had been lain a 0.20m thick firm, mid yellowish brown, silt deposit.

7.29.3 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.10m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.75m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

7.30 Window Sample 30

7.30.1 Window Sample 29 was bored to a depth of 2.94m and encountered a naturally deposited gravely sand horizon at 2.54m OD.

7.30.2 The natural horizon was sealed by a 0.27m thick, firm, light greyish yellow blue, clay deposit that contained small quantities of rounded gravel. The deposit appeared to be indicative of alluvial deposition and it is possible that a channel may be present in the vicinity of Window Sample 30.

7.30.3 The alluvial horizon was sealed by a 0.10m thick, firm, dark black, sandy silty gravel deposit containing fragments of animal bone which was in turn sealed by a 0.23m thick, firm, mid yellow grey, silty gravel deposit. Overlying the upper horizon was a

0.25m thick, firm, dark brown black, sandy organic silt deposit containing occasional CBM flecks which was in turn overlain by a 0.50m thick, friable, dark black, gravely sand deposit containing occasional fragments of leather.

7.30.4 Sealing the earlier horizon was a 0.71m thick, friable, mid grey brown, sandy silt above which was lain a 0.36m thick, friable, dark brown, silty sand containing gravel, slag material and glass fragments. The deposit was sealed by a 0.16m thick, firm, mid yellow brown, silt horizon.

7.30.5 The remainder of the window sample was comprised of 0.11m of topsoil and grass turf, the upper horizon of which was encountered at 5.23m OD and represents the current ground surface in the vicinity of the window sample.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The watching brief found evidence for a natural brickearth horizon sealing an earlier natural sand layer. Whilst the upper level of the natural horizon showed marked differences across the site it is unknown as to whether these differences represent undulations in the natural topography or the presence of archaeological features.

8.2 "Dump" deposits were encountered across the site although their date of deposition remains unknown.

8.3 The presence of masonry elements in a number of the boreholes suggests the remains of post-medieval buildings remain in situ below Abbey Green Park.

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Moore, P. 2007 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief on a Geotechnical Site Investigation at Abbey Green Park, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Jim Hunter of Hyder Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

10.2 The author would like to thank Guy Seddon for conducting part of the watching brief and Peter Moore for his project management and editing.

Appendix 1: OASIS FORM

1 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: ENGLAND

List of Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: preconst1-30909

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Abbey Green Park, Barking London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted on a geotechnical site investigation at Abbey Green Park, Barking, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The watching brief found evidence for a natural brickearth horizon sealing an earlier natural sand layer. Whilst the upper level of the natural horizon showed marked differences across the site it is unknown as to whether these differences represent undulations in the natural topography or the presence of archaeological features.
Project dates	End: 18-05-2007
Any associated project reference codes	ABG07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland

Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON BARKING AND DAGENHAM BARKING Abbey Green Park, Barking London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Study area	10100000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4405 8390 51.5350986755 0.077166777392 51 32 06 N 000 04 37 E Point
Height OD	Min: 3.60m Max: 6.28m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Hyder Consulting
Project design originator	Peter Moore
Project director/manager	Peter Moore

Project supervisor	Joanna Taylor
Type of sponsor/funding body	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Abbey Green Park, Barking London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Taylor, J
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London

Entered by	Joanna Taylor (jtaylor@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	31 August 2007

2 OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice